TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5918

J. RANDOLPH BECKER, CHAIRMAN ROBERT W. LEVY, VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID G. SHEFFIELD LENORE R. MAHONEY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TELEPHONE (781) 431-1019 EXT. 2208 WALTER B. ADAMS DEREK B. REDGATE RICHARD L. SEEGEL

ZBA 2020-59 Petition of Michael & Patricia Mordas 15 Tappan Road



Pursuant to due notice, the Special Permit Granting Authority held a Remote Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:30 pm, on the petition of Michael & Patricia Mordas requesting a Special Permit/Finding pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 and Section 25 of the Zoning Bylaw that demolition of an existing nonconforming garage and mudroom and construction of an attached two-story, two-car garage and mudroom with less than required left side yard setbacks, on an existing nonconforming structure with less than required front and left side yard setbacks, on a 9,360 square foot lot in a Single Residence District in which the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet, at 15 Tappan Road, shall not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing nonconforming structure.

On September 4, 2020, the Petitioner filed a request for a hearing before this Authority, and thereafter, due notice of the hearing was given by mailing and publication. In accordance with Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the hearing was scheduled for November 17, 2020.

A Board member acknowledged that he knows the Applicant through his son's school and stated that it will not affect his judgment on this petition.

Present at the public hearing were Michael and Patricia Mordas, the Petitioner, and Mike Tartamella, Architect.

Mr. Tartamella said that the request is for proposed additions and renovations to a pre-existing nonconforming structure. He said that his clients are both Wellesley residents who are relocating to Tappan Road and downsizing. He said that the property is located on a 9,360 square foot lot in a 10,000 square foot Single Residence District. He displayed total living area and lot sizes of some of the houses in the immediate area. He displayed photographs of the existing house, which is an American Four Square with additions that were put on in 2004.

Mr. Tartamella said that the existing nonconformities are the side yard setback of 9.8 feet where 20 feet is required and a bay that was approved by variance in 1950. He said that the proposal is to remove the existing mudroom connector and garage and put back an addition off of the rear that improves the side yard setback from 9.8 feet to 10 feet. He said that the proposed addition continues to the right side of the property and conforms to the rear yard setback requirements. He said that they studied building on top of the existing garage and had some concerns about the integrity of the foundation and its depth.

Mr. Tartamella said that existing lot coverage of 2,257 square feet will be reduced to 2,243 square feet, which is under the allowable 25 percent.

Mr. Tartamella said that the property is located in a Conservation jurisdiction and an Order of Conditions was issued. He said that there will be a reduction in impervious surface from 2,018 square feet to 2,012 square feet.

Mr. Tartamella said that existing TLAG is 3,772 square feet and proposed TLAG will be 4,473 square feet, for an increase of 701 square feet.

Mr. Tartamella said that the envelopment calculation of 32 percent is well below the Historic Commission's threshold for demolition review. He said that the front elevation of the house will remain mostly unchanged except for modification to a third floor dormer. He described changes to the paneling detail, recladding, and adding shadow boxes and shutters for scale. He said that they will raise the hip roof and create second floor space with dormers, with the pitch scaled down on the front side. He said that the ridge height of the garage will increase by 5.5 feet. He said that the rear side currently has a fence and because of the drop off, most of the rear wall will not be seen. He said that they consulted with the neighbors and they supported the proposed design, which will allow for more access to the garage for today's vehicles. He said that his clients received letters from the neighbors on all four sides.

Mr. Tartamella said that there are currently eight lamps on the house and one spotlight. He said that the proposal is to take the spot light off and have six carriage lights on the house that will be dark sky compliant. He said that they preserved the open space, landscaping and topography as it exists today. He said that there will be some upgrades in terms of deferred maintenance and restoration of landscape buffers.

Mr. Tartamella said that the proposed renovations and additions are in keeping with the character and scale of the neighborhood. He said that they made an effort to design something that looks like it could have been an original thought and compliments the architecture of the existing house and the neighborhood.

A Board member asked about the large oak tree at the rear of the garage. Mr. Tartamella said that the tree was reviewed under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC) and it was determined that it needs to be removed, from a hazard and a construction standpoint. He said that it is leaning and there is some long term concern about the health of the tree. He said that the WPC deemed it acceptable to remove the tree. A Board member said that WPC decisions supersede the Tree Protection Bylaw.

The Chairman said that there are four other homes in the neighborhood that are over the TLAG trigger and this is not the biggest one.

There was no member of the public who wished to speak to the petition.

Statement of Facts

The subject property is located at 15 Tappan Road, on a 9,360 square foot lot in a Single Residence District in which the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet, with a minimum front yard setback of 24.3 feet where 30 feet is required, and a minimum left side yard setback of 19 feet where 20 feet is required.

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The existing nonconforming garage has a minimum left side yard setback of 9.8 feet where 20 feet is required.

The Petitioner is requesting a Special Permit/Finding pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 and Section 25 of the Zoning Bylaw that demolition of an existing nonconforming garage and mudroom and construction of an attached two-story, two-car garage and mudroom with less than required left side yard setbacks, on an existing nonconforming structure with less than required front and left side yard setbacks, on a 9,360 square foot lot in a Single Residence District in which the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet, shall not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing nonconforming structure.

Letter to Zoning Board of Appeals, dated 8/21/20, from Michael Tartamella, AIA, a Plot Plan, dated 9/3/20, stamped by Robert A. Gemma, Professional Land Surveyor, Floor Plans and Elevation Drawings, dated 8/20/20, prepared by Patrick Ahearn Architect, and photographs were submitted.

On July 23, 2020, the Wetlands Protection Committee issued an Order of Conditions, MA DEP #324-0947.

On November 17, 2020, the Planning Board reviewed the petition and recommended that a special permit be approved.

Decision

This Authority has made a careful study of the materials submitted and the information presented at the hearing.

It is the opinion of this Authority that demolition of an existing nonconforming garage and mudroom and construction of an attached two-story, two-car garage and mudroom with less than required left side yard setbacks, on an existing nonconforming structure with less than required front and left side yard setbacks, on a 9,360 square foot lot in a Single Residence District in which the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet will not result in the intensification of existing nonconformities, will not result in additional nonconformities, and will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing nonconforming structure.

Therefore, a Special Permit is granted, as voted unanimously by this Authority at the Public Hearing, for demolition of an existing nonconforming garage and mudroom and construction of an attached two-story, two-car garage and mudroom with less than required left side yard setbacks, on an existing nonconforming structure with less than required front and left side yard setbacks, on a 9,360 square foot lot in a Single Residence District in which the minimum lot size is 10,000 square feet, in accordance with the submitted plot plan and construction drawings.

The Inspector of Buildings is hereby authorized to issue a permit for construction upon receipt and approval of a building application and detailed constructions plans.

If construction has not commenced, except for good cause, this Special Permit shall expire two years after the date time stamped on this decision.

APPEALS FROM THIS DECISION, IF ANY, SHALL BE MADE PURSUANT TO GENERAL LAWS, CHAPTER 40A, SECTION 17, AND SHALL BE FILED WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF FILING OF THIS DECISION IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Bandolph Becker (L.M.) J. Randolph Becker, Chairman

David G. Sheffield

Derek B. Redgate

ZBA

2020-59

Applicant

Michael & Patricia Mordas

Address

15 Tappan Road

NOT VALID FOR RECORDING UNTIL CERTIFIED BY TOWN CLERK

In accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, I hereby certify that twenty (20) days have elapsed after the within decision was filed in the office of the Town Clerk for the Town of Wellesley, and that no appeal has been filed, or that if such appeal has been filed, that it has been dismissed or denied.

Date:

Attest:

Cathryn Jane Kato Town Clerk

cc: Planning Board

Inspector of Buildings

lrm

